

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 TRSE-00 /078 W

-----042019 081303Z /53

P 081151Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1462

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 10110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, GW, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRG: SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE

1. SOVIET INFORMATION MEDIA PREDICTABLY HAVE ATTRIBUTED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE VISIT, STRESSING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TO THE STRENGTHENING OF DETENTE. ALTHOUGH SKIMPY ON THE DETAILS OF THESE CONTRIBUTIONS, THE MEDIA HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VISIT MARKS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS AND ALSO THAT IT IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN IMPROVING THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE. WHILE NOTING THAT CLOSER SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS AND DETENTE BOTH HAVE THEIR ENEMIES IN THE WEST (AND IN THE FRG), MOSCOW AT THIS POINT WANTS TO STRESS THE POSITIVE AND TO CONVEY A SENSE OF HOPE. THE BREZHNEV VISIT HAS SERVED THE CAUSE OF PEACE WELL. IN TERMS OF VOLUME OF COVERAGE, WE NOTE THAT FRONT PAGE OF PRAVDA OVER PAST THREE DAYS HAS BEEN ALMOST ENTIRELY GIVEN OVER TO THE VISIT, ITS SPEECHES AND ITS DOCUMENTS.

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2. TV COVERAGE WAS EQUALLY EXTENSIVE, FEATURING FULL COVERAGE OF BREZHNEV'S DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW, ARRIVAL IN THE FRG, BREZHNEV'S TWO TOASTS AND ADDRESS TO THE WEST GERMAN PEOPLE, WHICH WAS AIRED HERE IN THE WEE HOURS OF SUNDAY, MAY 7, PLUS LIVE COVERAGE OF BREZHNEV'S SUNDAY AFTERNOON RETURN TO MOSCOW.

3. AS SEEN IN SOVIET TV COVERAGE:

--BREZHNEV'S ADDRESS TO THE WEST GERMAN PEOPLE CAME OFF FAIRLY WELL, BUT APPARENTLY REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE EDITING OF THE AUDIO; WE NOTED AT LEAST EIGHT INSTANCES IN WHICH BLOOPERS WERE CUT OUT OF THE TAPE. (NOTE FRG EMBASSY INFORMS US SPEECH WAS ACTUALLY VIDEOTAPED IN MOSCOW BEFORE BREZHNEV WENT TO BONN).

--BREZHNEV LOOKED A BIT TIRED, AND MOVED WITH SOME STIFFNESS, AS HE DESCENDED FROM HIS PLANE AND GREETED HIS POLITBURO COLLEAGUES AT VNUKOVO AIRPORT SUNDAY AFTERNOON; ALTHOUGH HIS MILITARY AIDE WAS AT BREZHNEV'S ELBOW, LEONID IL'ICH GOT DOWN THE STEPS FROM THE PLANE WITHOUT APPARENT DIFFICULTY. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, VISITS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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